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Long way to the lookout

Haliburton's Ruby Andrews, 11, reaches for a hand hold while rock climbing on Saturday morning, July 24 at the James Cooper Lookout in Algonquin Highlands. Ruby, who has been climbing for close to four years, was with a group of climbers, scaling the rock face. /DARREN LUM Staff

County declares end to state of emergency

The County of Haliburton has declared an end to the state of emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic at the upper-tier level.

"The County of Haliburton is ending this declaration as we no longer require the operational flexibility it provides," Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen said in a press release. "While we are optimistic the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, we encourage our community to remain vigilant in following public health guidelines. We en-

courage everyone who is able to get a vaccine to do so at your earliest convenience."

The release specified that the county will continue to follow provincial recommendation regarding pandemic response.

The county and most of its lower-tier townships declared a state of emergency associated with the pandemic on March 17, 2020. As of press time, the Township of Minden Hills had also lifted its state of emergency.

Staff

MH eyes road allowance bylaw

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Minden Hills councillors had no shortage of opinions about implementing an unopened road allowance bylaw permitted under the Ontario Municipal Act, which they discussed during a July 29 virtual meeting.

The policy was presented in a report by CAO Trisha McKibbin. An examination of use of public land across the township was carried out after a variety of complaints pertaining to one site, a public access to Gull Lake located at the end of Murdoch Road.

"One of those options is looking at use of unopened road allowance policy and looking at a lot of the locations within the municipality, a lot of use is happening, or a lot of concerns are being raised, on unopened road allowances," McKibbin said. "While

this may not solve everything, I think this is the first step in looking at some of these issues and what we can do to mitigate them."

An increasing population has meant greater pressure on access to waterways and lakes, which are often accessed with unopened road allowances. Some of the complaints include noise, parking, environmental concerns and trespassing. A policy is expected to help staff and the fire department, which has expressed concern about accessing locations using lands that don't have maintained vehicular access. Other concerns include real estate property listings referencing lake access, and non-lake front properties being permitted access through road allowances.

Township staff researched the topic by reviewing policies and bylaws related to unopened road allowance in effect in other municipalities, such as Highlands East.

The report said a policy or bylaw helps to

see **POLICY** page 5

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Mixed bag at first shoreline preservation bylaw open house

by **MIKE BAKER**
Times Staff

There were many opposing opinions and viewpoints presented by members of the public during a virtual shoreline preservation bylaw open house, hosted by the County of Haliburton on Thursday evening [July 29].

In what is arguably the most significant hot-button issue in the Highlands right now, members of council joined representatives from Hutchinson Environmental Sciences and JL Richards Associates – the firms tasked with providing an independent review of an all-encompassing shoreline bylaw document – in listening to 21 different delegates offer their thoughts and opinions on a piece of legislation that has been in the works at the county level for several years.

Thursday's meeting was borne out of a desire by county officials to open discussion on the issue and allow members of the community to provide feedback, months after attempts to push a bylaw through were met by vitriol by those who would be most impacted.

So, what's the story behind the bylaw? Haliburton County council has long held concerns over the health and water quality of lakes in the Highlands. Members have spent much of the past 18 months debating the merits of a bylaw, and what should be included.

Back in January, a draft bylaw was tabled outlining several key items designed to protect water quality, while also acknowledging private land owners' property rights. Perhaps the most controversial point was the inclusion of a 30-metre setback, essentially outlawing any and all development within 30-metres of any water body. The reason outlined for including the setback, county officials say, is to protect wildlife habitats and establish a natural, vegetative buffer that can help prevent potentially harmful substances from running into the water.

Concerns have also been raised over the county's plans to require any significant developments on lands affronting lakes to be put through a rigorous permit process.

On Thursday, Jason Ferrigan, a senior planner with JL Richards, said this was the first of two open houses planned as part of this independent review of a potential shoreline preservation bylaw.

He explained the role he and his team will play throughout this process, which he expects will conclude in October.

"In terms of our assignment, county council has tasked us with providing an independent and objective review of the tremendous amount of work that went into creating the draft shoreline preservation bylaw... That consists of three distinct, yet interrelated streams of work," Ferrigan said. "First is a scientific literature review, second is then

to go and look at successful practices elsewhere... Then talking to members of the public and stakeholders to understand their perspectives and views on the bylaw."

He estimates his team is around 40 per cent through the second portion of the work, and expects to be in a position to provide a report on preliminary findings to council in August.

To date, as part of their work, Hutchinson Environmental Sciences has consulted with six scientific experts in the realm of shoreline preservation, and reviewed 54 papers related to shorelines, according to Brent Parsons, a senior aquatic scientist with the firm.

"As part of our next step, [we] will review existing mechanisms in effect in the county... [and we are] currently researching approaches in other comparable municipalities. Through that research, we are going to summarize the legislative and planning mechanisms that are used, prohibitions, exemptions and effectiveness of policies, as well as document details such as specific setback distances, buffer sizes, minimum frontages and minimum lot sizes," Parsons said.

Ferrigan noted that, in his research thus far, he has identified that Haliburton County has 951 different bodies of water – including lakes, rivers, streams and ponds. Of those, 64 per cent are considered cold bodies of water, 4 per cent are cool bodies of water and 32 per cent are warm bodies of water.

He pointed out too that there was a pretty even split in ownership of land that immediately fronts onto those bodies of water, with 51 per cent owned privately, and 49 per cent considered crown land.

As a part of their review, Ferrigan and his team discussed the draft shoreline preservation bylaw with more than 20 stakeholders prior to Thursday's meeting, with most of those discussions being quite fruitful.

"It's very clear to us that all stakeholders, regardless of perspectives, value the lakes in Haliburton. It's also safe to say from the conversations we've had that stakeholders also support the idea of healthy lakes," Ferrigan said. "I don't think anyone wants to see water quality deteriorate on the lakes. People understand the lakes are important and want to see them be successful and sustainable in the future."

Bill Missen, a director with the Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes' Area Property Owners' Association, said he sees the need for a document to properly protect natural shorelines in the Highlands, but finds the proposal brought forth by the county earlier this year "very prescriptive."

"I have three main issues – [first], the 30-metre rule. We were one of the lakes involved with the 'Love Your Lake' program, and we have to question how things have gone from a three-metre ribbon of life [for shoreline] to now, 30 metres. I find it overly excessive – looking at the science that sup-

ports 30-metres, that's good, but we're not sure what's wrong with the science that also supports a shorter ribbon of life," Missen said. "My second point is enforcement – it's a large county, with 951 bodies of water... What's the cost going to be [to police this] properly?"

In his third point, Missen said that he takes exception to this bylaw infringing upon ownership rights.

"Some lakefront property owners feel threatened by this bylaw. They shouldn't feel threatened by anything, but least of all from our government," Missen said. "Owners are feeling they're totally losing control of their property, particularly if the 30-metre setback is introduced."

Dave Love, a lifelong cottager on Haliburton Lake, said he didn't understand the need for any additional protection or legislation, bringing forward data that, he suggests, shows Haliburton's lakes are doing just fine.

"From what I have learned, the main objective here is to achieve shorelines classified as 75 per cent naturalized or regenerated, and by doing so that will help maintain high water quality, prevent algae blooms and prevent the risk of eroding shorelines and flooding," Love said. "Proposing this bylaw... suggests to me that Haliburton's lakes and shorelines are in such a state of deterioration as to require urgent government attention to save them from serious harm. I have searched for evidence of [this], but have been unable to find any."

Love pointed to a 2019 lake health report published by the Haliburton Property Owners Association, which states the shorelines of the community's 60 largest lakes was already trending towards 75 per cent naturalized condition.

He also pointed to the fact that three lakes in Algonquin Park, which are 100 per cent natural with no disturbed shoreline, were closed back in 2015, 2016 and 2017 due to algae blooms being found in the water.

"Water quality is measured by several parameters, and according to that lake health report, 60 of Haliburton's largest lakes met or exceeded those parameters in five of the six categories," Love concluded.

Susan Hay, herself a lakefront property owner, says she fully endorses the development of a shoreline preservation bylaw. A member of Environment Haliburton, Hay pointed to her own personal experiences over the past 18 months when discussing why a bylaw is necessary.

"In November 2020, ten lakes in Haliburton had confirmed blue-green algae blooms, and one of them was on a lake where I reside... We had a lake-based water system. We were advised not to use our water for any reasons – we had to buy water for cooking, washing dishes and even bathing," Hay said. "I share this story because I fear people don't understand how awful it is to have this happen. The lake I live on is small, but busy. Annual phosphorous samples were always below the allowable level. We thought we were safe from the threat of blue-green algae, but we weren't."

She believes climate change is having an impact on the quality of area lakes, and that preserving natural shorelines is the number

“

Some lakefront property owners feel threatened by this bylaw.

— **BILL MISSEN, MBC**

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one way to help offset those effects.

Mike Thorne, lake steward for Gull Lake, said he had communicated with 218 members of his association prior to Thursday's meeting, which accounts for around 50 per cent of property owners on the lake. When he asked his members to place a level of importance for maintaining natural shorelines, he said 94 per cent said it was of paramount importance.

Deb Wratschko, president of the Kennis Lake Cottage Owners' Association, said she wasn't in attendance on Thursday to support or debunk the bylaw, but simply to convey the opinions of the over 600 members of her association.

"Maintaining healthy lakes and good water quality is a priority – there are only a few things we as individuals and a community can do to substantively protect water quality. One, to maintain and regularly inspect our septic systems to ensure they're functioning properly. Two, protect existing shoreline vegetation to act as a buffer for nutrients and siltation entering our lakes. And third, eliminate the use of fertilizers on shoreline properties," Wratschko said.

Russ Wunker has lived on Miner's Bay for 75 years, and formerly owned Miner's Bay Lodge. He said that, if county council were truly serious about maintaining water quality, they would target a specific group of the population that are quite prevalent for several months of the year.

"Why not proper monitoring of ice fishing? Most ice fishermen are not local, and sometimes there can be up to 100 huts on a single lake, with no [portable toilets] in view," Wunker said. "There's certainly lots of filth, garbage and debris left on the ice that drifts ashore in the spring. Where is the concern and regulation about this pollution to our lakes?"

In total, there were 21 speakers to address council and the host firms on Thursday. Ferrigan said he was "very impressed" by the level of knowledge people brought to the table.

He said that, for next steps, his team will be taking the feedback shared, reflect on it and, together with the environmental research carried out by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences, use it to compile a report it plans to present to county council in August.

Following that meeting, a second open house will be organized, likely for September, to gather additional thoughts, before a final report is presented to council in October.



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Litwin Rotary Club pres for second time

by GRACE OBORNE
Times Staff

After five years, Lynda Litwin returns as president of the Rotary Club for the Minden branch.

"It's a privilege and an honour to have the opportunity to lead Rotary again. It's really just a great opportunity to lead the club and to do things within the community," said Litwin.

With the support of one another, the members of the Minden Rotary Club are responsible for various large contributions to the community. One is the volunteer co-ordination of the COVID-19 vaccination centre located at the S.G Nesbitt Arena in Minden.

"The Regional Health Unit team leader that was coordinating the sites contacted me and said 'will you be the leader to organize volunteers?' And I said, 'No, but Rotary will.' We have a Rotarian who's taken on that project by leading it on behalf of rotary, but the other members are standing behind her, supporting her, and trying to help her," said Litwin.

The Minden Rotary Club locally raises money for numerous projects as well. These funds are raised through different events such as their annual charity road toll that takes place Labor Day weekend.

In 2016, Litwin last served as president of the Minden branch. Now, she reflects on the contrasts of both her times



Rotarian Lynda Litwin is president of the Minden club for the second time. /GRACE OBORNE Staff

as president. With COVID-19 still at close range, there are many challenges Litwin will have to assess that she didn't before.

"It will be interesting because we have four new members, and we had a new member join us within the last six months, but we haven't met in person. It will be interesting and neat to just watch the dynamics of the club with the few new members," she said.

The Minden Rotary Club gathers for different committee meetings. However, they usually gather every Monday for a dinner meeting. Since the pandemic, that has changed.

"The huge challenge is gauging the members' readiness to meet in person again. Last time I was president, we were meeting every week. Every Monday night was our meeting, and it was a dinner at Mark's Restaurant. Now with COVID, we started Zooming and at some point we decided to meet every other week."

Litwin's goal is always to grow the club. With the club currently at 19 members, Litwin feels that it projects a family-like dynamic.

"Certainly, our focus is to always to grow the club. I call it the Rotary family, and there is a family feel that you get when you're part of the club. It's a very nice inclusive feel, to be part of that, and in some ways you see each other more than you see extended family," said Litwin.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Minden Rotary Club, or looking for more information can visit www.mindenrotary.ca or can contact Litwin at 705-457-8511.

Rocking the bass

A number of volunteers helped to make the Halls Hawk Property Owners' Association first annual kids' rock bass fishing derby happen on July 24. /Photo submitted



Jaiden and Jace Weiler participated in the association's first fishing derby.

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

August 26 – Regular Council Meeting

September 9 – Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in August and December.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenHills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice.

We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process.

Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenHills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Back to School Safety Tips

With summer ending and the start of school just around the corner, drivers need to do their part to keep kids safe as they walk and bike to school. Whether you are taking your kids to school or just driving through a school zone, you can do your part to keep kids safe.

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving

Reminders for your kids:

- Cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them

FIREWORKS DISPOSAL

Place used fireworks in the garbage. Please do not recycle them. To dispose of unused fireworks, soak in a bucket of water for one week before placing in your garbage. Fireworks are not accepted at household hazardous waste events.

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We are currently looking to fill a variety of positions within multiple departments. Many opportunities with the Township include benefits such as enrollment in a comprehensive benefit package, access to an Employee Assistance Plan, life insurance, personal health coverage, enrollment in the OMERS pension plan, vacation, float and sick time entitlements as well as opportunities for training and development.

Please see below and visit our website at www.mindenHills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for more information and application deadlines.

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DID YOU KNOW?

When the summer heat is too much to bear, there are 5 public beaches within the TWP that are a great place to cool off with a quick dip.

Northern High hits the main drag

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Most Mindenites have likely noticed the recent transformation of the building that once housed Minden Book & Stationary along Bobcaygeon Road in the village's downtown.

Northern High carries a full line of cannabis, cannabis products and accessories, and owners Dale Schumacher and Beverly Primrose are hoping its doors will open by the end of the month.

"All the products are government-regulated," Schumacher points out. "We know exactly what we're selling, and you know exactly what you're buying."

Along with smoking and vaping products, edibles and CBD oils, the business also carries an array of paraphernalia and accessories. The renovation inside the building is as complete as the one on the outside, with merchandise housed within glass cases amid modern finishes and fixtures.

Schumacher has a background in business, with his family-owned company Whitney Plastics now based out of Lindsay. Primrose does administrative work for the company, and has a background in dealing with at-risk youth and addiction.

The pair are under no illusion that perhaps everyone is not so thrilled about the prospect of a cannabis store on Minden's main street, and Primrose says part of what she hopes to accomplish is the removing of the stigma around cannabis consumption.



Dale Schumacher and Beverly Primrose are the owners of Northern High, which they hope to see open by the end of the month along Minden's Bobcaygeon Road. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

"I'm open, talk to me, if there's anything we can help you understand," she says, inviting anyone who may have questions to come for a visit once the shop opens.

The pair have hired four local staff people, and are looking forward to hosting a grand opening.

A website and phone number (Northern-High.ca and 705-286-1200) will go live shortly, and in the meantime, anyone with questions about the business can email info@northern-high.ca

Right, the interior of the former Minden Book & Stationary has been through quite a transformation.



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— Vermont Resident Survey, 2013

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Check out www.mindenpride.ca for detailed instructions.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24
Movie Night featuring Papi Chulo

Time: 8:00pm (gates open at 7:00)
Location: Abbey Gardens Little Pit Drive In.
Please register at www.abbeygardens.ca/littlepitdrivein

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25
Drag Storytime

Time: 10:00am Location: Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Details at www.eventbrite.ca/e/storytime-with-drag-queen-aunt-plum-tickets-164339388535

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26
Minden Pride Trivia Night

Time: 7:00- 9:30pm
Location: The Dominion Boat House.
Please preregister by noon that day at trivianight@mindenpride.ca

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27
Pride Bench Dedication

Time: 12:00pm Location: Minden River Walk.
Check out our video tribute to Sinclair Russell at www.mindenpride.ca

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28
Parade Your PRIDE Colours

(Rain date: Aug 29th). Time: 12:00 – 6:00pm and **Float Down the Gull with PRIDE!**
Time: 1:00- 3:00pm
Visit www.mindenpride.ca for more information about these events!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29
Multi-Faith Service

Time: 1:00pm Location: this is an online event. Register at multifaith@mindenpride.ca for this online event

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Policy would prevent certain uses of public land

from page 1

outline the use of unopened road allowances, which helps to protect the township from liability claims, control expenses related to maintenance and improvement, manage public access where appropriate, protect the environment and adjacent waters, manage future transportation needs, and recognize and allow resolution of First Nation Treaty Rights.

Staff recommendations included that no person shall perform any work, remove any trees, soil or other material or erect upon or use any unopened road allowance or shore road without the specific written approval of the township, and that no person shall erect a dock or any kind of structure, and no person shall store any vehicle, boat, trailer on an unopened road allowance leading to water.

There were two questions for council from the report. One, whether to move forward with the creation of a bylaw, and what staff recommendations council wanted to include.

Mayor Brent Devolin and all the councillors were thankful for the report and are in favour of implementing an unopened road allowance bylaw.

There was some debate about whether this should be a staff- or committee-driven process. Councillor Pam Sayne said a public consultation opportunity is also needed.

For the second question, was whether there needs to be a case-by-case examination of applications.

Devolin wants an application process that accounts for the anomalies, but also for the vast majority of situations, so staff can handle it efficiently.

Minden Hills is in a unique position.

"We may be the guinea pigs in the leaders in this unless someone has found one across the province," the mayor said.

He adds this process could take the balance of the council's term.

McKibbin said this will work "hand-in-hand" with

Haliburton County's shoreline preservation bylaw and the unopened road allowance bylaw is one piece of a larger puzzle related to public land use.

McKibbin agreed with approaching applications on a case-by-case basis, as presented by councillors Bob Carter, Jean Neville and Jennifer Hughey.

She pointed out that successful applicants who are granted permission to use unopened road allowance do not take away access to anyone else.

"By granting one individual permission to use an unopened road allowance does not negate anyone else being able to walk across it. These are all pieces of the puzzle ... just by granting someone permission does not restrict the use. We also need to be prepared we're not providing any one individual more, or better access to the property," she said.

This process for a bylaw could provide insight about what issues are out there, which occurred when septic inspection programs were implemented by municipalities, Carter said.

"There's lot of people who have driveways or accesses that are running down road allowances to get to certain properties and so on. Just to have complete records on this would be a great step forward," he said.

Devolin said this could lead to the discovery of other issues the township will need to deal with.

"There's a snowball here. That doesn't mean we shouldn't tackle this piece of it, but it will be intricately linked to at least three or four other substantial things that will be a by-product of it," Devolin said.

Following the mayor's comments McKibbin clarified there are two types of use that fall under this bylaw.

One is recreational use or access to the water, or another location, and the other are driveways located off of unopened road allowances and buildings that are located on unopened road allowance.

"It might be easier to separate out into two so that we

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There's a snowball here.

— MAYOR BRENT DEVOLIN

”

don't have one large bylaw that we're then trying to decipher everything into," she said. "And again based on the research I've done, that looks like how many municipalities deal with it is separating into two policies. That's something as we delve into this I can bring back further information and refine what that might look like."

McKibbin will have a subsequent report for council for when they meet again for the public meeting in August.

It's about making sure things are done correctly, she said.

"I certainly don't want to go down the road and put something in place that is just not going to work. I do think committees add some time to the process, but I guess it's better to have that time at the front than at the back end when we don't have something that works," McKibbin said.

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A summer to remember

AS I REFLECT on how my summer has gone thus far, from the hammock in which I sit in, I look out only to see the sun beaming onto Canning Lake. I can also hear laughter that exhilarates through family and friends, and I think to myself, this has been a summer for the books. I ask myself how it has already been a month. It's crazy how fast time flies when you're having fun, working hard, and enjoying life.

I remember my first day of work like it was yesterday. I was so anxious that working for the *Echo/Times* was going to be way above my knowledge and abilities as student. I was worried that I wasn't going to succeed at a reporting position, or even worse, that I wasn't going to enjoy it. Instead, it has been the greatest and most rewarding experience I've had in a long time. Working for the *Echo/Times* has made me realize that being a journalist is something I really want to pursue.

Although I speak highly of how my time in this position has been so far, it hasn't been perfect every minute of the way, and I mean that my work hasn't been perfect. Day to day, I get constant feedback on how I can better my writing, reporting, and photography skills. As a journalism student, I feel it is one of the best parts of my job. I've been able to take advice from professional journalists and put it toward the material I produce. More than that, I'll take that new knowledge and apply it to the work I carry out in school.

Within the first two weeks that my work was being published, there had been a few instances where people had reached out just to tell me that my writing is terrible and that I shouldn't work towards the profession of journalism. Though, at the time, that criticism I received was discouraging, now that I look back on it, those words have really only encouraged me to work harder. I've learned that this will happen

again throughout my career, but the best way to go about it is to stay positive and move on.

Overall, Haliburton County and its community have been wonderful to work with. Everyone has been so welcoming and engaging. It was hard to walk into a new community, but each and every person I've crossed paths with has made it easier. I genuinely become excited for each assignment that I receive because it means I'm able to engage with more individuals in the community. I can't wait to continue the rest of my time at the *Echo/Times* and to meet many more of you.

Aside from writing and reporting for the papers, when I'm not working, I spend my time with my boyfriend's family and friends, or I go back home to visit family and friends. However, more often than not, I choose to stay at the cottage. Why would one want to leave when they wake up every morning to a view of the lake?

My boyfriend and his family have been an amazing support system for me while I've been away from my own family. They've gone out of their way to make me feel at home as well, and continue to support me and my work every day.

Another reason as to why I love working in Haliburton is because during the week I'm able to write and do what I love, then on my time off, I get to spend time with people I love. Whether that is here on the lake, or back home in the city. Ultimately, between work and family, I've been having the best summer.

I look forward to the rest of my time working with the *Echo/Times* and to making many more memories with friends and family.

Please reach out anytime at grace@haliburtonpress.com if you have a lead on a story or if you just simply want to chat.

**GRACE OBORNE**
Reporter

Kwarky



Ken Wark

Basics in stink

ONE OF THE classic rules of dog behaviour is that a dog follows its nose. Otherwise, it would always be walking backwards.

The concern here is that a dog's nose generally leads it to things most people would prefer not to smell – or watch a dog smell.

Take, for example, the other morning when I woke up and took my dog outside off-leash. I immediately noticed that Rosie ran towards an area of the front lawn that had been dug up in the night. When I got there, I looked at the carnage with mixed emotions. On one hand, thanks to the unsightly holes and pulled up turf, there was less lawn to mow. On the other hand, it was clear that this was the handiwork of a skunk – the one my English springer spaniel was now hot on the trail of.

The skunk was not in sight but judging from the joyous body language of my pup, it wasn't too far off either.

Since this was very early in the morning and I did not want to wake up the neighbours, I whistled at Rosie. This is a recall signal she heeds 99 per cent of the time. The other one per cent of the time, she is trailing a skunk.

So, instead of heeling, she shot me a look that said, "I know you want me to return to you, but this is a really neat smell and, if we are lucky, I'll catch up to the beautiful creature that made it. You want me to thank it for making less lawn to mow?"

Rosie gets me; I'll give her that.

At that point I did the only thing I could do, I gave Rosie the hand signal to sit,

which she did. Then I walked up to her, threw on a leash and escorted her home.

It was a very near thing, judging from the fact that even I could smell it.

An incident like this reminds a hunting dog owner that there will come a time when you will be driving home with your dog from a late November hunt. It will be in the middle of a blizzard, when a howling crosswind and frigid temperatures descend upon the land and the stench inside the vehicle will force you will think it is a good idea to keep all the windows wide open until you get home – and maybe for a few hours after that.

Sometime on that drive home, however, you will also come to realize you have two choices: to let the sweet, merciful cold take you or to close the windows and turn up the heat and live with the unbearable stench of whatever your dog rolled in.

It's not an easy decision.

By the way, if you are wearing your regular cologne, your dog will probably want to roll on you too.

The good news is, if you get pulled over on the way home, the officer will let you off with a warning and perhaps even an admonition to get as far away from this place as quickly as you can – speed limits be damned. And when you get home, your spouse will probably offer the same advice.

Fortunately, if you do things right, within a couple of months the smell will be gone from your vehicle. But there is bad news too. You might just have gotten used to it.

Either way, the solution is simple. Stop wearing that cheap cologne.

**STEVE GALEA**
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Showering in my undershorts

HAVE THE feeling that someone is listening and watching? I have that feeling more often these days. It's more than a feeling. It has become a belief.

The other night the television went wonky, as televisions do in these times of mystifying electronics, spy satellites and other stuff beyond the reach of average human comprehension.

I called the TV service provider. A distant and unconcerned voice answered and said things were being checked but nothing appeared to be wrong.

"You might try changing your TV remote battery," advised the voice. "It's down to 30 per cent."



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

I stared at the remote in my left hand, then the telephone in my right.

"How do you know that?" I asked. No answer.

I changed the battery, but the TV remained wonky. Occasional cutting in and out and flashing like there was a thunderstorm overhead, but that night there wasn't a cloud for hundreds of miles around.

"Monitor it for the next 24 hours and if there's still a problem, call us back."

The next day the TV was normal and I assumed the voice had fiddled a switch or jiggled a button and the problem disappeared. However, I was left with that uncomfortable feeling that the voice on the phone also was a set of eyes inside my home.

How did it know the battery level in the TV remote sitting on my coffee table? And, why didn't it say how it knew when I asked?

It's creepy how little of our lives is private anymore.

For instance, I'd like to know where they get those questions you must answer to get into your bank account web site. Who was your first manager? Where did you go on your honeymoon? Who was your Grade 12 math teacher? On what day did you clip your toenails last month?

I don't remember giving anyone those questions, or the answers.

I suppose I should be thankful they are questions I can guess at. If they asked me really difficult stuff like: Where did you leave your car keys? I would never get into my bank account or any password-protected site.

Governments and big businesses know more about every one of us than they will ever admit. They have it stored in brightly lit rooms that buzz, whir and crackle with digital sounds.

By one estimate, more than 98 per cent of the world's information now is stored digitally, and the volume of that data has quadrupled since 2007. Much of it is data taken from home and work electronics that we use to send and receive emails, chat on social media and work on crowd-sourced projects.

Many of us were shocked reading George Orwell's novel *1984*. The book's Big Brother with his telescreens in every home and office was small potatoes compared with today's Big Data.

Stroll into a shopping mall store and covert lenses track you to record your shopping experience. Show an interest in Big Bill blue jeans and the Big Bill company knows about it.

Big Data has tens of thousands of unambiguous algorithms sniffing through our Web histories like beagles looking for puppy snacks. What they find is stored forever, unlike paper which loses what it has stored when you accidentally spill your coffee on it.

Big Data has other sneaky tools – like facial recognition, which you thought was really cool when you got it on your new smartphone. So did governments and big corporations, who now know more about you than your mother.

Those selfies that many folks are so fond of placing on social media apps? They likely are ending up somewhere you didn't want them to be.

Surveillance of citizens minding their own business has been growing dramatically during the COVID pandemic. Hundreds of millions of Chinese have installed mandatory 'health code' smartphone apps that determine whether they can leave home.

Some European governments are collecting Telcom data, employing drones and copying contact-tracing apps invented in Asia as part of Covid surveillance.

Governments and corporate giants constantly tell us that privacy is important and surveillance is used only to prevent crime, improve efficiency, or whatever.

Yeah, maybe. But just to be safe I am going to start showering in my undershorts.

letters to the editor

Crown land policies need overhaul

To the Editor,

Crown land use guidelines are grossly outdated; current guidelines do not account for the changing demographic and increased conflict between both user groups and adjacent land owners, and the increased use for activities that at one time never existed; activities that are destructive to the resource. Target shooting and off-roading by large Jeeps/4X4s are both activities that are not conducive to preservation of the land and nature. These two user groups have a negative impact on all other user groups, and adjacent land owners.

Crown land is inappropriate for target shooting as: there is generally inadequate or no berm, trees should not be used as targets as it kills them and destroys the lumber quality. Shooting high

up at the tree branches as targets has long trajectory bullet range, shooting often occurs directly into adjacent private property, and the there is the risk of other users nearby and unaccounted for by shooters.

Policies need to be put into place that protect the Crown land and wildlife habitat. Furthermore, people need to take responsibility for the negative impact of their actions. Everyone can use Crown land, but their activities should be respectful of not just other public users, and nearby homes, but the very land they are using. Entitlement of use should not equate to entitlement to noise pollution and destruction.

Suzanne Harrison
Minden

Return of the Book Nook

Dear Book Nook Patrons,

We're back! (in a modified format.) The Book Nook will be open outdoors at the Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays, weather-permitting.

Our fundraising has been greatly curtailed due to COVID-19 we're hoping for community support to get it going again. As usual, the proceeds

go to fund needed equipment and supplies for all county branches.

All COVID-19 precautions will be in place. There will be a donation jar rather than the usual charge.

Looking forward to seeing patrons old and new.

The Book Nook Crew

HCPL's Book of the Month - August



When Sharifa accompanies her husband on a marriage-saving trip to India, she thinks that she's going to research her great-great-grandfather, a wealthy business leader and philanthropist. What captures her imagination is not his story, but the mystery of his four wives. She ends up excavating much more than she had imagined.

Sharifa's trip coincides with a time of unrest within her insular and conservative religious community. A group of feminists is speaking out against khatna, an age-old ritual they insist is female genital cutting. Sharifa's two favourite cousins are on opposite sides of the debate and she seeks a middle ground. As the issue heats up, Sharifa discovers an unexpected truth and is forced to take a position. A rich, soulfully written novel about inheritance and resistance that tests the balance between modern and traditional customs, *Seven* is one of this year's Evergreen nominees. Check it out from HCPL today..

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Not all peanut butter is created equal

I LOVE PEANUT butter. It's unusual that a day goes by when I don't eat it in some way, shape or form. Sometimes it's on toast. Sometimes it's mixed with ice cream. Sometimes it's layered on a banana, or sometimes I eat it right off a spoon. That's how much I love it.

When it comes to nuts, peanuts aren't exactly the most nutritious choice. Compared to almonds, peanuts contain similar nutrients (Vitamin E and Magnesium) and protein however almonds have a greater amount per serving. That would explain the cost difference between the two.

Regardless of your nut of choice, nut butter is made by grinding up ... you guessed it ... nuts. There is nothing added. There is enough naturally occurring oil in nuts so with enough grinding the nuts eventually become creamy. I have made nut butter once (it was actually almond butter). It was a neat process to experience but it is time consuming. It is easier to buy nut butter from a natural or bulk food store.

There was a time that I did enjoy processed peanut butter. If I have it now I can taste the difference and there is quite a difference. I looked up the ingredients of two popular brands. Have a look:

Brand 1: Roasted peanuts, sugar, peanut oil, hydrogenated vegetable oil, salt, mono and diglycerides, cooking molasses and

vegetable oil.

Brand 2: Roasted peanuts, soybean oil, corn maltodextrin, sugar, and hydrogenated vegetable oil.

That's quite a list! Given that peanut butter can be made with just peanuts it's no wonder that other stuff is referred to as additives.

Several of the ingredients in Brand 1 and Brand 2 are there to modify the taste or the texture of the peanut butter. That's great but what are those chemicals doing to our bodies? The other question is why even buy the processed stuff when there is a healthier alternative? It may not be the taste or texture that you are used to but after eating it for a while you will adjust. I know that I did.

There are now many natural options of peanut butter available in grocery stores from some big name companies. They may say "100 per cent peanuts" but I encourage you to read the label if you're considering trying that option. Some have salt added. That's not necessary at all. Food has its greatest nutritional value when it's consumed in its natural state or as close to it as possible. Peanut butter is a great example of how making a healthy choice is just as easy as the alternative.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

Wait! Those 'weeds' are improving the health of our lake

Thinking of removing aquatic vegetation from your shoreline or around your dock and swimming area? STOP! It is illegal to remove vegetation from the water without a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. What's more, these so-called "weeds" are actually helping to keep our lake healthy.

Aquatic vegetation helps remove phosphorus from the water. Phosphorus is considered one of the major stressors contributing to algal blooms. Fortunately, we have not experienced a bloom on Lake of Bays and our water quality is excellent, but one would seriously and negatively affect our enjoyment of the lake and property values.

Aquatic vegetation also provides fish habitat – both feeding grounds and spawning areas.

Some companies recommend agitators to minimize plant growth in the water. While not illegal, these devices disturb silt from the bottom of the lake and greatly increase water turbidity. Disturbed silt can smother fish eggs, cause damage to the sensitive gills of fish and potentially interfere with particulate feeding. Turbidity makes it more difficult to treat water for drinking and reduces light penetration which affects the growth of phytoplankton, negatively impacting the entire aquatic food chain.

Disturbing the bottom of any waterbody,

whether by pulling vegetation or using an agitator could release contaminants, including cadmium, mercury, lead, excess phosphorus, pesticides, PCBs, and others, which had been safely contained in the silty bottom.

So rather than trying to get rid of aquatic vegetation once it's there, why not address the cause? Aquatic plants often grow where nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium, are plentiful. Efforts to prevent excess nutrients in the soil along the shoreline from reaching the lake are our best line of defense. This can be done by:

- Reducing or eliminating lawn areas that have shallow root systems that do not absorb many nutrients;
- Never using fertilizers (which all contain phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium); and
- Establishing deeper and wider buffers of indigenous, deep-rooted shrubs or trees along the shoreline that filter out excess nutrients from the soil before they can reach the lake water.

If you are interested in getting help to re-naturalize your shoreline, visit natuledge.watersheds.ca. They offer advice on indigenous plants, planting plans, and subsidized rates for shoreline property owners.

*Caroline Konarzewski
Lake of Bays Association*



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For thousands of years, Nature had her laws and she never broke them. Rivers flowed and shorelines thrived. Our lakes did just fine without us. But the stresses of climate change and population growth mean our lakes now need our protection.

They are showing signs of distress, with a decrease in wildlife and a rapid increase in toxic algal blooms.

A shoreline protection By-law, drafted by experts and rooted in Science is the most powerful action we can take to protect the health of our lakes and the future of our County.

Show your support for the By-law.
Email your Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

beshore.ca
Sign our petition.

Love fueled Walker’s achievements and commitments

by GRACE OBORNE
Times Staff

Long after his competitive curling years, skip, Jake Walker still possesses a profound love for the sport. He can still recall his memorable years as a young adult travelling and competing in the sport where he found joy.

The Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame is recognizing Jake Walker and all of his successes. Jake grew up in the Highlands and began his curling career in the community. His grandfather curled and was the catalyst in the very beginning. His grandfather was very involved in the curling community in Haliburton. At a young age, Jake was associated with the Minden Curling Club Junior Program.

Though Jake tried many other sports when he attended Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, he ultimately found himself on the curling team. “I played basketball, badminton, rugby, and even soccer. I also did track and field. I did basically every sport that I could manage to play, but I just always enjoyed curling more,” noted Jake.

“Jake tried to play hockey for, I believe one year, but it was curling that he really enjoyed,” said his mother, Nancy Walker.

Jake has been Haliburton County’s most accomplished curler for many years. He has won provincial championships at Bantam boys’ and Junior boys’ levels and the Gore Provincial Championships at the high school level. In university, Jake won back-to-back OUA (Ontario University Athletics) titles in 2012 and 2013. He also won silver at the CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) Championships in 2012, but would return to capture the national title in 2013. In 2010, Jake skipped the Canadian Junior Curling Championship team and won the Bronze medal at the World Championships.

“You can’t even explain the feeling of pride as a mother. It is actually a very anxious feeling watching as a parent as well, because you walk in there, and you’re sitting there on the edge of your seat. It’s just an amazing feeling. It was just



Jake is pictured at the World Junior Curling Championships in Switzerland in 2010, following his 7-1 win over China to win bronze. /Submitted Photo

very surreal too because each age group that he got to he basically won, so for a mother, it was [a] pretty amazing feeling,” said Nancy.

“The people who are running those junior programs, we have to praise them because they are giving the kids the con-

fidence and the skill to learn the game. Also, they allowed these young [kids] to actually play on the men’s team. Then they’re learning more about the game and how it should be

see WALKER page 12

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Affordable housing project moves forward with amendment

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

The following are briefs from the Minden Hills council meeting held virtually on Thursday, July 28.

Council approved a zoning bylaw amendment to enable the affordable housing project on Highway 35 to proceed with its site plan approval application

"Some of us are very excited to see our part to push this forward. The process always seems a lot longer than we like," Mayor Brent Devolin said. "Other than, yahoo, is there any other questions or comments from members of council with respect to this?"

There were no questions and the vote was unanimous with yes and yahoos.

Tender awarded for Moore Lake drainage improvements

W.G. Jackett and Sons Construction were awarded the tender for drainage improvements to Shetland Road and Moore Lake Estates.

They provided the lowest bid at \$146,233.77 and highest evaluated tender and will keep Minden Hills well within budget of its \$170,500.

"I'm always a little nervous when I see such a disparity and obviously these are weird times, but Jackett and Sons has a history of good work, both at the county and City of Kawartha Lakes. It's nice to see how much lower than it is to the others," Mayor Brent Devolin said.

The construction bid was much lower than the next lowest bid at \$201,026.88.

A \$14,000 contingency allowance to the construction portion is part of the plan to allow for any change orders.

Councillor Pam Sayne said, "I've got to send out a great big thank you. Not only on my behalf, but on behalf of the residents there and also on behalf of the person who preceded me on council, who was working on this. This has been a long time coming. I don't know when I'm going to announce the party. I guess I'm going to wait until it's completed, but there will be party when this is finally taken care of. It's greatly

appreciated. Thanks for all the work on it and it's great. Let's move ahead."

Arena and community centre opening

Now that the province is in Stage 3 for COVID-19, the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and the Minden Hills Community Centre is scheduled to open with COVID-19 protocols on Aug. 16. There will be access to the walking track and the pickleball court..

"Not a lot has changed from previously. It will still be booked times in and contact tracing and those kind of things, but we're fully confident we can get the facility going now and get it open to the public in the next two weeks, so staff are moving along. We're ready. We're excited and we're looking forward to this," township director of community services, Craig Belfry said.

Ice making for the rink will begin Aug. 13 and is expected to be completed and ready by Aug. 27 when the Haliburton Huskies will start to hold their tryout camp.

Rzone policy ensures safety

For the first time the Minden arena has the Rzone policy to foster a safe environment and address any incidents of bullying, violence, intimidation, vandalism, threats and discrimination.

Rzone, which stands for respect and responsibility, is a "proactive education and awareness strategy to promote respectful and responsible behaviour at all facilities, events and on municipal properties."

"The purpose of the policy is to take a proactive approach when looking to enforce a set of expectations around violence, vandalism and inappropriate behaviour for participants and the general public. As staff move to open the new S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre, this type of policy is paramount to safe and positive interactions between staff and the general public," said the report, as presented by township director of community services, Craig Belfry.

This program will apply to all community organizations, and community members using municipal resources such as the \$13-million S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre.

Good Hood project kicks off in Minden

by **GRACE OBORNE**
Times Staff

As of early July, Places for People Housing Corporation Inc., a county-based affordable housing organization, released the details of the Good Hood project that has kicked off in Minden.

The Good Hood project is collaborative between three different community housing providers in Minden. The different corporations are not-for-profit and run their own businesses. Collectively, the different housing providers house about 200 tenants that range in age.

"The purpose of that organization is to basically help not-for-profits who provide community housing to improve their service, in whatever ways possible," said Fay Martin of Places for People.

The project undertakes a participative research approach where people who are directly involved with the question under investigation, give expert input and contribute to how that input is interpreted.

"The intent of the project is to engage the tenants in all of the community housing buildings in Minden to come together and figure out what kind of ongoing mechanism would be useful to identify issues of concern and rectify them in an expedient manner, or maybe even prevent them by getting early identification by improving communication among the various parties that might be involved in whatever the issue is," said Martin.

While Places for People is the host agency for this assign-

ment, Community Housing Transformation Centre, a federally funded body, is funding the project.

The Good Hood initiative holds near and dear to Martin's heart as she has a long history with housing communities. This is how the idea for Good Hood came about.

"I have a long history in housing, and care deeply about it. I think it is to everyone's benefit if the community housing tenants are absolutely full-scale, good as gold, fully functioning members of the community. I think many of them are, but I'm not sure that we acknowledge that. Everybody needs to be acknowledged and as well as they can in this community. Anything that stops that from happening, I want to see that identified and ameliorated ASAP," noted Martin.

COVID-19 is something that pushed Martin into the idea of the Good Hood project. She began thinking that with the housing and real estate sky-rocketing in the area, "a lot of people who always thought that they would own their own home, may now not be able to own their own home."

Martin has made clear that the ultimate goal for this project is to develop a resolution to continue making living in community housing the best experience it can be for everyone. "The eventual output of the project will be a sustainable mechanism of some sort, a resolution table, that can identify early and resolve quickly and efficiently any impediments to a positive living experience."

"This will be of ongoing benefit to tenants, housing providers, service providers, and the community at large," concluded Martin.

For more information on the Good Hood project, you can call Martin at 705-457-6912 or email her at fay@placesforpeople.ca.

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It's not goodbye, best wishes Chad



After many years with the *Minden Times* and *Haliburton County Echo*, hundreds of editorials, thousands of news stories covering our community, we wanted to say thanks, you will be missed.

Cheers to the next chapter of your career!



Congratulations on your new career change. It must be exciting and I hope it is exactly what you want. You will be missed for sure.

Laura Smith, Haliburton Echo

Congratulations Chad as you begin an exciting new chapter in your career. Algonquin Highlands has gained a valuable asset in you as a team member.

Your ability to bring a story to its full light in your insightful, 'spot on' and sometimes 'whimsical' way is a gift, and will be greatly missed in the *Echo* and *Times*. As neighbours and friends we will luckily continue to still enjoy many more engaging conversations.

Bonnie and Greg Roe, Minden residents

Readers of the *Minden Times* will likely remember Chad's contribution to the paper and the community in terms of his steadfast dedication to covering the day's news and his astute editorials. In his 13-year career with the paper there wasn't much he didn't cover. From natural disasters to service club fundraisers to election night results, Chad reported on it all. And council. Lots and lots of council. Chad's encyclopedic knowledge of the workings of this county's municipalities will be sorely missed. When I look back on the many years Chad and I worked together, I remember all those things, but also many hilarious moments. In particular, the photo shoots for the Awkward Moments columns with Steve Galea that included Chad running from a herd of sheep, shooting (terribly) at archery targets, gelling his hair and donning

shades for an imaginary boy band, and dressing up like one of Santa's elves. Somewhere in the *Times* archives is photographic evidence of all of that. Wishing you all the best, Chad, on your next adventure.

Jenn Watt, former editor of the Echo and Times

Wishing you all the best in your new position! Congratulations! You will be missed at the paper for sure. Thank you all the excellent reporting and editorials over the years.

Andrea Roberts, Dysart Mayor

A class act!! I hope you have a great time in your new endeavour.

Brent Devolin, Minden Hills Mayor

Your deft touch of reporting the news will be missed by readers everywhere. Your reporting skills coupled with your command of language not only kept us informed but also assured us of the veracity of the information. All best wishes in your new endeavour. I hope it fulfills expectations and makes you glad to face each day. At the start of a week, in days past as a working stiff, we would often say, partly in jest, "thank god it's Monday!" That's when you know you love your work. I hope the new challenges are equally fulfilling for you.

Mike Jaycock

Walker inducted into hall of fame

from page 10

played. They were willing to embrace these young kids, which was really, really nice," she added.

Jake's former teammate, Edward Cyr, who played third, reflects on their times playing alongside each other.

"Jake's been under some high pressure situations in his curling career, and he seems like the guy that doesn't feel pressure, or that it doesn't affect him. So that's certainly one of his winning traits. Give him a shot to win and he'll make it," he noted.

"Our dynamic on the team was infallible. We always knew what to say to each other for the stressful situations. I was also kind of the bridge between the front-end and him. We would have discussions over strategy or ice conditions, and there were so many inside jokes and just memories together from curling. It was just so easy for us to get along on the ice and just always fun. It's always a joy curling with Jake," added Edward.

Edward's father, and former teammate of Jake's, Ed Cyr, also commented on the type of person Jake was and how that impacted his performance as a curler.

"I think he had a wonderful personality, I think that probably makes those people good at what they do. He was very dedicated and very focused. He loved curling, he loved the sport. I think he just loved being together with friends and enjoying himself."

Asides from skip, Walker also played other positions and takes his main role seriously.

"I [have] played every position in my career to date. I can play all four positions, but I prefer playing skip the most because it's the one that I resonate with, and I tend to perform the best in skip position. Being skip is a very hard position to do. It involves a lot of thinking," he noted.

"It's my job to always think two or three steps ahead. I need to read the ice as well. I need to read the rocks. I need to read the other team. I have to read my teammates. If my teammates are having a bad day, I have to know that and adapt to it," Walker added.

Walker still continues to play recreationally but stopped his competitive motives as his priorities began to change.

"The thing that inspired me back then, was to be the best that I could be at my sport. There were always opportunities to be better, I was always motivated to be better," said Walker.

"At my age now, my drive is more family oriented. That's why I'm not competing at that competitive level anymore. Just because I have my priorities. It's very hard, to compete, and to get to that Olympic trials level because you need to be traveling everywhere. It's a huge time commitment that I'm not willing to do because that means a lot of time away from my family. My kids are 2 and 10 months old, and I'd like to spend as much time as I can with them," he added.

On top of wanting to spend the most time possible with his wife and kids, Walker is also busy with his day-to-day occupation. Currently, Walker manages a product at an artificial intelligence company in Waterloo after attending Waterloo University for an undergrad degree in electrical engineering.

"We basically teach machines how to think like humans. It's takes a lot of time. So at this point that is what I do. I work doing that, and then on my off time I spend it with my family."

While family is Walker's number one focus, he often thinks about introducing the world of curling to his kids so that they can, one day, find a love for the sport the way he did.

"I want to get my kids into curling, when they're older. For sure. I want them to have as much opportunity to find the thing that works for them. If it's curling, great, if it's another sport, fantastic. I just want them to have the opportunity to know and learn it themselves," Walker concluded.



Everything to scale

Angela Andrews belays her 11-year-old daughter Ruby, as she works her way up the rock face below the James Cooper Lookout in Algonquin Highlands on Saturday morning, July 24. /DARREN LUM Staff



Eleven-year-old Ruby Andrews of Haliburton scales the rock face.

Walt McKechnie to stand in as Dysart deputy mayor

by MIKE BAKER
Times Staff

“

Long-time Dysart councillor Walt McKechnie will temporarily serve as the township's deputy mayor, stepping into the role until the end of the year to cover a medical leave of absence for incumbent Pat Kennedy.

Dysart council handled the issue in a closed session on Tuesday, July 27. All that was made public was that Kennedy had made a request for a medical leave, with no details released surrounding his condition.

McKechnie, the councillor for Ward 5, was the first to signal an interest in taking the role on temporarily, after Mayor Andrea Roberts asked for volunteers. Ward 4 Coun. John Smith would then register his interest.

In what Roberts described as an “awkward” situation, the remaining members of council – Larry Clarke, Nancy Wood-Roberts and Tammy Donaldson were forced to vote between the two. The trio voted unanimously to place McKechnie in the role.

People know... I will speak for them.

— WALT MCKECHNIE

”

“I’ve been on council for three terms, have a very good rapport with all department heads and show a lot of care for the whole community,” McKechnie said. “People know... I will speak for them.”

As interim deputy mayor, McKechnie will also have a seat on Haliburton County council. Wood-Roberts will take Kennedy's spot on Dysart's personnel and administration committee.

Kennedy's leave will run until Dec. 31.

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Spinning up fun 27 kilometres at a time

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Riders of all backgrounds will be finding what moves them during the upcoming 8 Hours of Hurtin' in Haliburton gravel race.

Hosted by the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve for the third consecutive year, the bike race will provide a diverse cross-section of riders an opportunity to tackle as many 27-kilometre loops as they want within an eight hour period on Sept. 18.

"That's the point of the race is to show up and push yourself and see really what your body is capable of or your mind, depending on what really nags most first," race organizer and event founder Marc Sinclair said.

He adds this lapped race, which includes an undulating route with twists and turns on gravel roads, and close to 300 metres of elevation, is an ideal type of format for riders of all skill levels instead of a long distance race.

"You can do one or two laps and if that's all you're able to do and you've pushed yourself and you're happy with your effort you still get a finisher pass that shows the mileage you've done and you feel like you've accomplished something for the day. But it's in a safe manner so that way when you finish a lap you finish by your car you can leave, but if it's a 200 kilometre [race] you get stuck half way, a 100 kilometres in it's just not a scenario that's great for beginners," he said.

This race isn't just for the elite riders, who are ready to take the podium. It's for everyone that loves to ride and has a yearning for a challenge.

Last year, the top solo rider completed 216 kilometres in eight hours on a gravel specific bike – think road bike with

curled handle bars, but wider tires. In contrast, two perennial participants have come and ridden their fat bikes, which are heavier and have much wider tires than a typical 29er mountain bike, looking to not pass as many riders as possible, so much as take in and enjoy their race experience. They finished with 81 kilometres. This diversity also enables riders with all mindsets to find their group, whatever the pace they're setting.

In addition to the aid stations on the 27-kilometre course racers can take a break, eat or socialize (before COVID) in the pit area at the start/finish, Sinclair said.

Sinclair characterizes the Forest as a "hidden gem."

"Haliburton Forest roads are really spectacular in the sense that they have these rolling hills. Their gravel is fast, flowing and you really get a back country experience when you're riding the gravel roads of Haliburton Forest," he said.

With COVID-19, running a race is nothing like it was before.

"That's probably one of the hardest things about being a race director during all this is you're so focused on controlling things and being proactive and COVID is been something you can't control, so it makes it pretty difficult," he said.

At this point with health and safety restrictions related to COVID-19, it's not clear if there will be a mass start or staggered starts.

Returning riders will notice this year's route will seem the same, except it's counter-clockwise. This direction now includes a climb.

The event continues to grow and, like many in-person sporting events, exploded with popularity this year. There were 50 riders the first year and even with a cap last year because of health restrictions there were 100. This year there are already

140 registered, but there are close to 200 on a wait list.

"So, I'm pretty excited to see what that turnout is going to be and then in addition to that we're hoping to open to the public as of Aug. 7."

Within two weeks the race was sold out to the 100-rider permitted capacity in December when registration opened. Since January there was a wait list established and those participants were permitted to register a little more than a week ago.

Sinclair's aspirations include expanding the event to two days and creating a festival atmosphere where local partners and businesses, who were there at the very start of everything can come on site to interact with participants and learn more about the community.

Sinclair is thankful to everyone who has made his race possible, whether it's the volunteers, the Forest, Sir Sam's Ski and Ride for on-site mechanical assistance, and Haliburton Highlands Brewing, who has hosted the post-event party.

After two years Sinclair said the main thing he has learned is that an event like this is about building a community.

"Every year everyone learns a little bit more about the event and volunteers can handle their duties without working with me because it's something they've taken on [before]. The racers are looking to improve their times. Each year they're training, practicing to push their own limits to see if they can improve year over year, and even just working with local businesses as well and building relationships with them to build community has been fantastic," he said.

See the website www.valleyworks.ca to stay up to date about registration, which is going to be open to the public on Aug. 7 until notified otherwise.

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2	4	3	8	9	7	5	6	1
7	1	5	3	6	4	9	2	8
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Radiothon shatters all-time high, raising \$54,000 for Canoe FM

by GRACE OBORNE
Times Staff

Haliburton’s community radio station Canoe FM hit a new milestone with its 13th annual Radiothon, a major fundraiser that started in 2009.

From July 2 to 4, the station was over-run by listeners, who tuned in for auctions, raffles and music. This year, the Radiothon raised about \$54,000.

“Last year, we raised \$42,000, and I was blown away by that. This year, we never thought that we would get to \$54,000. There’s little bits and pieces [that] keep dribbling in but it was just incredible,” said station manager Roxanne Casey.

Canoe FM is a not-for-profit volunteer-driven radio station. The money raised from Radiothon is crucial to the budget of the station. The money goes towards operational costs of running the station such as phones, insurance, streaming, rent, office supplies, and computers.

“Most people here that run this radio station are volunteers, and there’s no government funding, so we have to raise the money to keep the radio station going. We have to raise the money to pay all the different bills that occur for having this kind of a business,” noted Casey.

With COVID-19 standing in the way, Radiothon 2020 and 2021 has differed from previous years, making Radiothon quieter than usual. Generally, the station would host

an all-out party with food, behind-the-scene tours and live music.

“We had to decide if we were going to have a Radiothon or not, and we decided last year to go ahead and do it anyway. We just limited the number of people we had involved. This year, we did the same thing. We still limited the amount of people coming and going at one time,” said Casey.

Despite the pandemic’s efforts to interrupt the live, in-person feature of Radiothon, Casey expresses that there was still a lot of excitement to go around.

“We offer things every hour to auction off, and, people are calling in constantly to get in on things. There’s a lot of excitement in the radio station as people are calling trying to get the item they want and you can feel that. When you’re listening to the radio, you can actually feel that.”

Separate from Radiothon, on July 6, Canoe FM hosted a Double Bingo as a way to give back to the community. Radio Bingo is a fundraiser of which the money that is raised is split between Canoe FM and other not-for-profit organizations in the community. Canoe only uses their portion of the bingo money for broadcasting expenses such as tower rentals, repairs, SOCAN fees, and transmitter expenses.

Some of the organizations Canoe FM has recently shared funds with are Places for People, Haliburton Highlands Art Centre Foundation, and Friends of Ecological & Environmental Learning.

“When we started radio bingo, we had no idea that it would turn into be such a success-

ful fundraiser for us and for other organizations as well,” noted Casey.

“I think all the volunteers work really hard at making this radio station successful, and if we have a successful fundraiser, and we can share that money with other organizations, that’s fabulous. It’s just so nice to be able to do it. We all need money to run our organizations or to deal with the projects that we’re working on, so if we can help, that’s great” she added.

Casey reflects on the overwhelming support from Haliburton County and it’s community as well as the volunteers who spend their time running the station.

“We appreciate the support from the community. It just makes everyone, especially the volunteers feel really good when all those donations start to come in. Sometimes you think you’re working in a vacuum, and you

don’t realize how you’re impacting other people in the community, and so I think just shows us just how community radio is important,” concluded Casey.

“It just makes everyone, especially the volunteers feel really good when all those donations start to come in.”

— ROXANNE CASEY

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 1

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4686 Gelert Road. Across from Community Center.



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AUG. 7/21 8:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m

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Minden Times

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The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times are seeking a skilled reporter to join an award-winning team of journalists in the heart of Ontario's cottage country. The preferred candidate will possess the following:

- A diploma or degree in journalism
- Knowledge of or interest in municipal government, as, in addition to general news, the position will entail reporting on the activities of a number of local municipal councils
- Firm command of spelling, grammar and Canadian Press style
- Demonstrated photography and photo editing skills
- Ability to juggle numerous assignments while meeting multiple deadlines
- Willingness to live in Haliburton County
- Must have access to a vehicle and a valid driver's licence

Interested candidates should forward their resume and writing samples to Publisher, David Zilstra by Tuesday, August 17th.
david.zilstra@haliburtonpress.com.



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560 ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ANNUAL Decoration Day Service
GELERT CEMETERY**

will be held on
Sunday August 15th
at 3:00 pm


Please bring lawn chairs.
Note Social Distancing
and Masks are required.
Thank You!




NOTICE

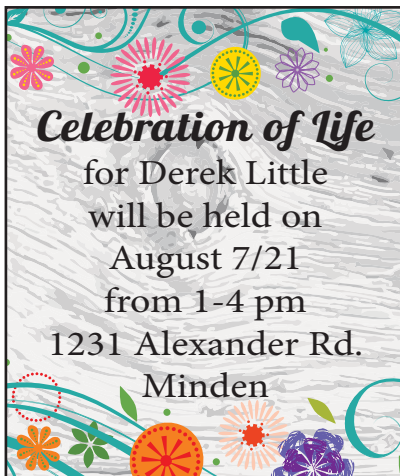
Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery
2021 Decoration Day Church
Service (August 8th at 2 pm)
has been cancelled due to the
COVID-19 pandemic.

Following social distancing
protocols, we encourage people
to visit this cemetery and
place flowers on August 8th
remembering and honouring
those who have passed before us.



Celebration of Life

for Derek Little
will be held on
August 7/21
from 1-4 pm
1231 Alexander Rd.
Minden




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650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
Allan G. Arbuthnot

*Passed away peacefully at home on Monday, July 26, 2021.
In his 81st year.*

Beloved husband of Yvonne (nee Ray) for 61 years. Cherished father of Jill (Phillip-deceased), and Scott (Toni). Loving Papa of Spencer, Carter and Sienna. Dear brother of Laureen (Eldon), Ron-deceased (Eleanor), Ruth-deceased (Lloyd), Phyllis (Dusty-deceased). Lovingly remembered by Pearl Ray, Don Ray, Marie Cooney (Ed-deceased) and Sherie Bierworth (Vaughn). Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Cremation has taken place and private family arrangements.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highland Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S. F.) or St. Paul's Anglican Church would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of
Donald James Maulson

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 in his 78th year with his forever loving wife of over 48 years, Patricia Ann by his side.

His beautiful smile and joy for life will always be cherished by Frank (Kathryn) Maulson, David Maulson (deceased), Penelope O'Brien, Barbara Ham, Rachele (Bear) Ottereyes as well as many in-laws. Many nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews will remember Uncle Don for his never ending sense of humour and his gentle and modest ways. Those who were fortunate enough to call him a friend will hold dear a man who through his deep friendships will leave a huge imprint in their hearts.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 on Wednesday, August 4th, 2021 from 11:00 am to 1pm. The Funeral Service to celebrate Donald's life will follow at 1:30 pm. Interment at the Minden Cemetery.

Please Note # Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, a limited amount of visitors will be allowed in the Funeral Home for the visitation and service with social distancing, face coverings, lists for the names and phone numbers of attendees are required for contact tracing.

In Lieu of flowers and as an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the Kinmount District Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of
Joan Victoria Levesque

Joan passed away peacefully in the Peterborough Hospital on July 31st, 2021

A cherished Mom and friend to Bobby (Pat), Denise Leblanc (Al), Bruce (Kathy) and Michele Coneybeare (Chris) and baby sister to her brother Doug (Oliver, BC). Loving and fun-to-hang-out with Nan to 10 grandchildren - Kristina, Nicole, Kevin, Danielle, Laurie, Sam, Jessie, Mike, Lily and McKay and great-Nan to 6 great grandchildren. Joan

is predeceased by her husband Bob, and her brothers, Roy Waterfield, Buck Waterfield and her endeared twin sister, Joyce Lescard. Auntie Joan had an extra special bond with her twin sister's sons Dougie, Jeff (deceased 2020) and Dale.

In accordance with Joan's wishes, cremation has taken place. A campfire and card game to celebrate Joan's Life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Donations may be made to either the Minden Community Food Bank, Haliburton Highlands Land Trust or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0. Joan has moved on "to win money at the poker table in the sky" with her best pal and twin sister, Joyce. Her witty sense of humour, spunk and openness to new adventures will live on in all of us that have had the privilege of being a part of her life.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

*Our thoughts go wandering,
When daylight fades.
To the land of long ago.
And memory paints the scenes of old,
In the gold of the twilight glow.
We seem to see in the soft dim light,
The faces we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
Goes down in the far off west.*



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The Times
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The Times

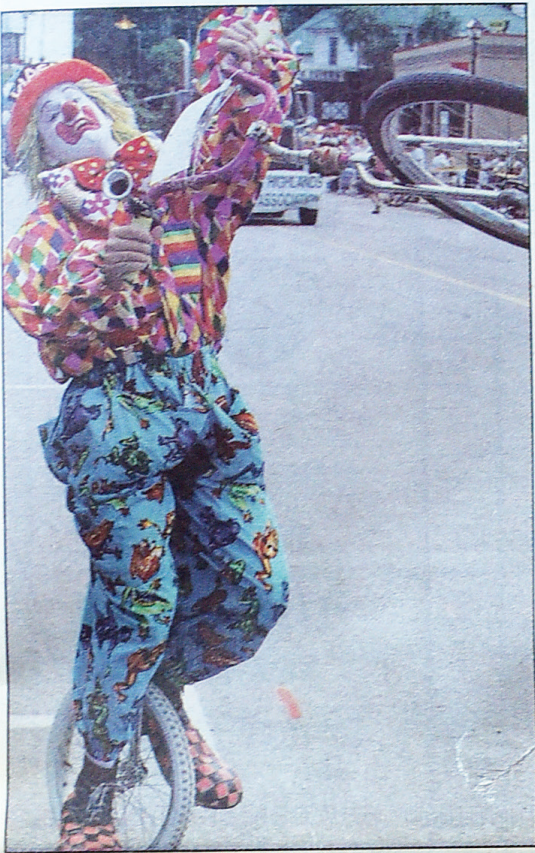
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Monday, August 23, 1999. Number 1902



CLOWNING AROUND

There were plenty of clowns on Minden's Main Street Saturday as the community turned out to watch the annual Haliburton County Fall Fair parade. The chap on the right received a mixed reaction from the children on the curb as he introduced them to his pet. Meanwhile, his companion, left, had trouble keep his bicycle together. For more photos from Saturday's parade see page 16 and next week's edition of *The Times*.



South Water Street work set for Sept. 7

The reconstruction of South Water Street is scheduled to begin on September 7. Public Works Superintendent Clayton Cameron said he is comfortable with the recommendations of the consultants regarding tenders for materials needed for the project when he reported on the Anson, Hindon and Minden council meeting August 12.

Construction will begin at the Highway 35 end of the street so the disruption in the downtown core will be as short a duration as possible.

The target date for completion of the project is mid-November.

Millennium sculpture

The council agreed to allow a committee of the Haliburton County Development Corporation to make appli-

(more on page 11)

Meet the Ambassadors



Fair Ambassador

Competition: This year's Fair Ambassador competition may have been light in numbers but was big on pride for Haliburton County. Answering the question "Will I live in Haliburton County after I graduate", competitors responded with a resounding yes.

Last year's junior ambassador Naomi Stephenson invited the contestants to participate in the junior fair board and help to make the next fair a huge success.

The contestants include, from the left, Fair Princess Kandice Withey, second place winner Scott Henwood, Senior Ambassador Teresa Kasepchuk, Junior Ambassador runner up Tasha Payne and Junior Ambassador Erica Fearrey.

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ON ALL 1999 NEONS

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\$3,495 \$12,495 \$7,495	\$2,495 \$4,495 \$19,995	\$20,995 \$7,995	\$16,500 \$1,000 \$20,995	\$13,495 \$1,795 \$1,200 AS IS/O.B.O.	\$1,500 \$17,995 \$7,495

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Here's How.

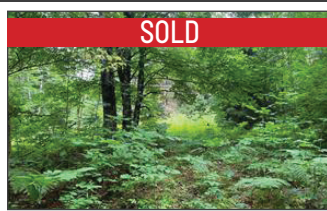
building centre



Adele Barry
705-457-0306

Grass Lake \$999,000

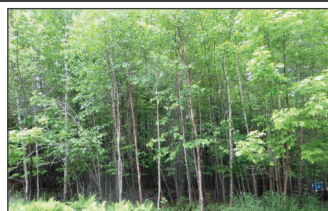
- 4 Bedroom 3.5 Bathroom
- 5 Chain Lake system
- Lots of privacy on 1.8 acres
- 2 min from Haliburton



Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Spencer's Trail \$59,000

- 0.7 acre lightly treed backlot
- In an area of cared-for cottages
- Road allowance at the end of the road



Andy Campbell
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- Bush lots and hunting camps
- Waterfront cottages
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Gloria Carnochan* & Brean Bude*
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Has it All Little Kennis \$995,000

- Yr Rd, 3 Bdrm + Office, 3 Pc Bath, Laundry Hookup
- Wood Flrs, Custom Kit/Granite Top, Wood/Electric
- Heated Studio, Garage, Granite Stone Landscaping
- Granite Firepit Area, Lg Docking, Gazebo, Internet



Mark Denny's*
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Home/Cottage \$364,900

- Apprx 130 Ft Rd Frtg, 0.48 Ac, 1200 Sq Ft
- New LR & DR, 2 Bedroom, 4 pc Bath, Private
- 10 Minutes to Halls Lk Public Beach/Park
- Apprx 25 Min to Haliburton/Minden/Dorset



Tom Ecclestone*
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Gooderham \$199,000

- Almost 17 acres with 345' on the Irondale River.
- 2 lots-in-one, with year-round access.



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

Brady Lake \$799,999

- Home/cottage, 3 bedroom, 1 bath
- Ultimate privacy & stunning view
- Winterized 2 bed/one bath guest cottage
- Level lot with lots of room & huge fire pit



Melanie Hevesi**
854-1000

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Andrew Hodgson**
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Haliburton Home \$699,000

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- 1,400 Sq Ft, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms
- Private 13+ acre parcel, ideal for hobby farm
- Insulated & heated workshop plus barn w loft



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Long Lake

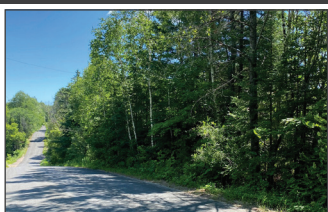
- Great 3BR starter cottage
- 140 feet of shoreline, great privacy.
- 2-lake chain with miles of boating



David Lee*
286-2138 x 227

Thinking of Selling your Property?

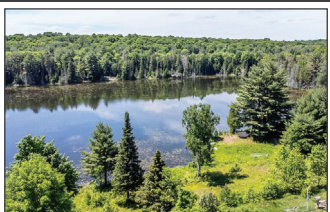
- Please give me a call. I would be glad to help.
- 35 years experience selling in Haliburton County



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Ursa Road \$250,000

- 43 acre hide-away, paved yr round road
- Hydro at lot line
- Close to Glamor & Billings Lakes
- ATV & snowmobile trails



Brandon Nimigon**
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Highway 507 \$199,000

- Ready to build your dream home
- 1.7 acres, drilled well & septic installed
- Stunning pond & beautiful views



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Fenelon Falls \$775,000

- 3 bdrm, 3 bath, in-town brick home
- 2300sft living space, corner lot, privacy
- Custom kitchen, FP, loft, dbl garage
- Barn for workshop/studio



Kelly Kay*
705-457-8841
Kirsten Rae**
705-854-1454

Minnicock Lake Rd \$144,900

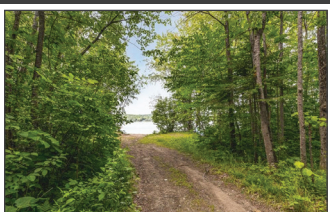
- 10 acres, nicely treed on year round road,
- only 10 minutes from Haliburton



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Wilberforce \$57,000

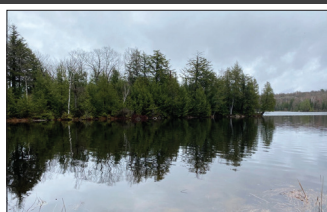
- Do you have building plans in the future?
- This well treed lot is within walking distance of all amenities



Christine Sharp*
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- 2 lots available, each 1 acre



Greg Stamp*
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Lt Glamor Lake \$349,000

- 189 frontage
- Shallow bay, ideal for canoe/kayak
- Crown Land borders north side
- Cottage needs repair



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Minden Bungalow \$599,000

- 3 bdrm/2 bath Home Just North of Town
- Cathedral Ceilings, Hardwood Floors,
- Walk-Out Lower Level Rec Room
- Dbl Car Att'd Garage, 1.1 Acres



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 223

Minden Home \$399,900

- 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 1014 sq. ft.
- Finished basement, fenced yard
- Walking distance to downtown



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Haliburton Area

- 1800+ sf home, main flr living
- 3 bdrms, 3 baths, sunroom
- Dbl attached garage
- Geothermal heating w/AC, back up generator



Kirby Keks*
705-457-2128 x138

Buying or Selling?

- MOVE to what Moves You!
- CLIENT focused! Results Driven!



Jim Allder*
705-935-1112

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- I have buyers waiting...

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